

911 Advisory Council

Minutes
December 13, 2016
2:00 PM

Radisson Hotel, Montana Room

Members Present:

Ron Baldwin, MDOA, Chairman
Jennie Stapp, MSL
Commissioner Gary Macdonald, MACO
Quinn Ness, MDOA - Alternate

Zach Slattery, MT APCO - Alternate
Shantil Siaperas, MACO
Kim Burdick, MT APCO
Sheriff Vern Burdick, MSPOA
Lisa Kelly, CenturyLink

Staff Present:

Wendy Jackson, MDOA/SITSD; Marilu Hanson, MDOA/SITSD; Rhonda Sullivan, MDO/SITSD

Guests Present:

Brad Steiner, Motorola Solutions; Elizabeth Wing Spooner, DOA/SITSD; Mark Baker, AT&T and Charter Communications; Sandra Barrows, Barrows Consulting

☞ Real-time Communication:

Adriane Beck, Missoula County; Chuck Lee, Fallon County; Kirk Kraft, MACO; Chris Lounsbury, Missoula County

Welcome and Introductions

Ron Baldwin welcomed the council to the meeting. All members and guests were introduced.

Minutes

Sheriff Burdick made a motion to approve October 20, 2016 and August 18, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Macdonald seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Business

Draft Legislation: Discussion & Legislative Planning

Quinn Ness stated that this meeting of the 911 Advisory Council was planned as a working session to discuss the proposed 911 legislation (LC445). The bill draft has been introduced and is now House Bill (HB) 61. Representative Frank Garner from Kalispell is sponsoring the bill. Mr. Ness discussed individual council members could obtain letters of support for HB61 from their respective associations and executive boards. Mr. Ness informed the council that the Governor's budget includes the transfer of \$10 million from the Wireless Provider Cost Recovery Account to help balance the budget. That would leave \$1 million remaining in the account. HB61, if it isn't amended, would not have a fiscal impact on program administration. The Department of Administration is in the process of preparing a fiscal note for HB61. Mr. Ness commented that to expend all of the funds in the Wireless Provider Cash Recovery Account would require additional budget authority. Critical dates included in HB61 include: "After the department makes distributions for the final quarter of the 2017 fiscal year from the wireless enhanced account established in 10-4-301(1)(c), the department shall transfer:" the \$5.430 million in provided for in Section 9 of the bill for the ESINet, GIS assessment and 911 strategic plan. The Governor's budget as proposed would transfer the \$10M before June 30, 2017. That money would then be unavailable for the previously mentioned transfers. Mr. Ness stated that the Governor's Budget, if implemented as is, would delay the implementation of the ESINet and GIS assessment. These investments would be made by using future annual revenues deposited in the 911 grant account.

Chris Lounsbury stated that, if the Wireless Provider Cost Recovery Account funds are approved for use in the Governor's budget, there may not be a way to re-accumulate those funds. There is nothing in the bill that would allow the transfer from the grant account to the temporary accounts.

Mark Baker commented that the Governor's budget will likely be rejected and changed.

Mr. Baker recommended that the council hold off on any decision making regarding changes to the proposed legislation until the Governor's Budget receives final approval.

Gary McDonald stated that the MACO Executive Board has passed a motion to support HB61.

Shantil Siaperas informed the council that MACO supports the use of these funds exclusively for the purpose of supporting 911. MACO representatives will oppose the Governor's Budget during the upcoming legislative session due to the proposed use of these funds for purposes other than 911.

Vern Burdick stated his support for moving forward with HB61 in its current form. Mr. Burdick also stated his confidence that the Governor can be persuaded of the importance of this bill and the critical need for the use of these funds for 911 purposes only.

Mr. Baldwin commented that, in his opinion, regardless of the conflict with the funding, HB61 is still a valid bill and necessary for advancing Next Generation 911 for the State of Montana. If this bill were amended and proceed through the session, acknowledging the sweep of money and that there is approximately \$1 million that would be remaining, we could then proceed with the ESINet and GIS assessment.

Mr. Baldwin made a motion to move forward with HB61 in its current form. Mr. Macdonald seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Public Comment

Mr. Baker stated the telecommunications providers will request three amendments to HB61. These amendments include the removal of verbiage that states that "nothing in this chapter prevents a local government entity that hosts a public safety point from exceeding legacy technology standards or baseline Next Generation 911". Deletion of this verbiage would in no way effect the intent of the bill. The second proposed amendment would be the addition of an expanded definition of "access line" as it is used to determine the assessment of the fee. The final amendment would be the addition of liability protection for all of the parties engaged in providing 911 services.

Adjournment

Next Meeting

January 19, 2016 at 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Mitchell Building, Room 7

Action Item: CIO Support will send a map to Conference Room 7 in the Mitchell Building to all 911 Advisory Council members.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.